

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE BUILDING CODE REVIEW BOARD

Minutes of Meeting

October 13, 2006

Attendance:

Robert Clegg, Chairman, Department of Safety

John Tuttle, NH Home Builders Association, Architectural designer - residential

Tedd Evans, Board for Licensing and Regulation of Plumbers, licensed master plumber

Jerry Tepe, Board of Architects, licensed architect

Thomas Malley, Bureau of Electrical Safety and Licensing, licensed master electrician

Wayne A. Richardson, NH Building Officials Association, municipal building official

Fred Baybutt, Associated General Contractors, building contractor - non-residential bldgs.

Med Kopczynski, NH Municipal Association, Acting Chairman

Joel Fisher, Board of Engineers, licensed structural engineer

Thomas S Lambert, Chief, NH Association of Fire Chiefs, Municipal Fire

Wes Golomb, NH Vocational Technical School, Laconia, NH

Excused:

Rick Swain, NH Plumbing & Mechanical Contractors Assoc., mechanical contractor, business

Mark Weissflog, NH Electrical Contractors Business Assoc., licensed master electrician

James Petersen, PE, Board of Engineers, licensed mechanical engineer

Laura A. Black, PE - Board of Engineers, licensed electrical engineer

Absent:

Mark Tibbetts, NH Association of Fire Chiefs, municipal volunteer fire chief

Michael Santa, CBO, Governor's Commission on Disability, Architectural barrier/free design

Guests:

J. William Degnan, State Fire Marshal, Division of Fire Safety

Chairman Clegg declared the meeting open with a quorum of Board member present.

PUBLIC HEARING

Exhibit 23 - proposed adoption of Appendix G of the International Residential Code - 2000:

Chairman Clegg asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to speak at this Public Hearing. Hearing none - he CLOSED the Public Hearing - but held open, for the next 48 hours, anyone wishing to send in comments to the Board.

GENERAL MEETING:

Adoption of the meeting minutes from September 8, 2006

Tedd Evans made the **Motion** to adopt the meeting minutes from September 8, 2006. **Motion** was **Seconded** by Wayne Richardson. Vote was taken. Minutes were **adopted** by a vote of the Board members.

OLD BUSINESS:

Penalty provision of RSA 155-A:

Tedd Evans reported that at the Plumbing Board they made a revision to their Statute, which instead of referencing specific codes, they referenced the State Plumbing Code, as part of the State Building Code. Assumptions were made that code violations under the penalty provisions of the statute would apply to the Plumbing Code as well. Inadvertently the penalty provision was left out of the revised statute. Previously, the penalty provision stated that plumbing code violations were a misdemeanor offense. Chairman Clegg suggested that the Plumber's Board attorney immediately file an Emergency Rule for the public benefit and health and welfare, which would allow the Plumber's Board to continue to prosecute as a misdemeanor.

Possibility of Code Amendment to establish a standard definition for potable water for private wells:

Tedd Evans tried to open up some discussion with what would be involved in establishing a state-wide standard definition of potable water in the State. Testing of water would be required to qualify for a certificate of occupancy. He suggests that a sub-committee be set up. Tedd will Chair, Tom Malley, Wayne Richardson, John Tuttle and Rick Swain will be on the committee.

Discussion of the Modular Home Industry:

Chairman Clegg reported that there are situations in New Hampshire now where modular homes are being delivered and set up for residency, and stamps are being put on them certifying that they meet the Codes when indeed they do not. There have been numerous infractions. He is opening the floor for discussion and thinks that this Board should be the first to look at this. They want a method for the State of New Hampshire to be involved in the inspection. Tedd Evans would like to hear more from the people on this also, as the Plumbers Board is concerned when the homes are tested there are significant leaks - and they are more like sprinkler systems than piping systems. Wes Golomb also concurred with what was being said. The PUC energy conservation code office has concerns with how they are assembled; the insulation where the two sections come together is not being installed correctly, among other things. Med asked what the statutory citation is on the program. FMO Degnan stated it is 205:C. The Chairman will invite the owners of the modular house to attend the next Board meeting.

Exhibit 18 - Amendments to the International Building Code - 2006:

Med Kopczynski reported that the intention for the committee was to review the present amendments to the Building Code and bring the adoption forward to the legislature. There are two areas that should be addressed. The first is the one entitled Fire Extinguishers and the other is Height and Area. Med asked that a sub-committee be formed to address each of these. Med, Tom Lambert, Wayne Richardson and Jerry Tepe volunteered to be on the sub-committee. One committee will address both issues.

Exhibit 19 - Amendments to the International Plumbing Code - 2006:

Med reported that there were not any controversial issues concerning the Plumbing Code that needed to be addressed.

Exhibit 20 - Amendments to the International Mechanical Code - 2006:

Med reported that there were not any controversial issues concerning the Mechanical Code that needed to be addressed.

Exhibit 21 - Amendments to the International Energy Code - 2006:

Wes reported that if this Code is adopted, the amendment the Board adopted earlier on concerning sun rooms, will not be included. He suggested that an exemption be put in again for sun rooms. Tedd stated that he thought the intent here was to bring forward the same amendments in the 2000. Jerry said that we put the sun room amendment in, because it was realized at the national level, that the 2000 edition totally ignored sun rooms. Changes were made in the 2001 supplement and it was carried forward in the new version and sun rooms are in there. The Building Code committee adopted what was in the 2003 edition for sun rooms. The 2006 edition may have some changes. Being at the code hearings himself, he reported that there were no major issues being brought forward dealing with sun rooms. Wes stated that this 2006 will now require higher R factors for the walls and ceilings, more stringent, which is good.

Exhibit 22 - Amendments to the International Residential Code - 2006:

John Tuttle reported that this is a little unique from the previous ones because this committee has not had the Residential Code as part of the Building Code before. There were a few issues that came up. He did not have a list prepared for the committee yet, but provided the example of window sill heights that have now been regulated to 24 inches off the ground. To get an egress window and maintain the height off the floor of 24 inches, that puts the window at 4'8", the typical egress window at a lumber yard, typically come 3' x 5'. It will also change the look of homes. John will check with some manufactures on the availability of windows that would be required with this change.

Chairman Clegg stated that his office has been fielding questions such as what are towns now suppose to do if they have not adopted the IRC in the way of current enforcement with State Code, and what are they suppose to do if they haven't adopted codes in the way of establishing local enforcement. This Board will have to put something together for the web-site to address these kinds of questions. Jerry also stated that there is a misconception out there that towns need to adopt building codes. It needs to be clarified. Med spoke with inspectors about this also. There are education issues out there and the effort to put something together will be well worth it. Wes said that a lot of people say they think they are getting an energy efficient house because of the new Codes.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no New Business to be brought before the Board at this time.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no Other Business to be brought before the Board at this time.

Chairman Clegg asked if **manufactured homes** and **modular homes** were regulated by the same. FMO Degnan stated that the construction of manufactured homes is regulated by HUD, the installation is regulated by the Manufactured Housing Installation Standards Board. Med will double check to see if the HUD code is the new IRC code.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business. Tedd Evans **moved** to adjourn. **Motion** was duly seconded and the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.